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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Nicolaides *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/558,149

Filed: April 26, 2000

For: **A METHOD FOR GENERATING HYPERMUTABLE ORGANISMS**



Attorney Docket No.: 001107.00104

Group Art Unit: 1632

Examiner: R. Shukla

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Amendment and Request for Reconsideration

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2001. The claims under examination in the case are 13, 14, 18-20, 29, 52, 53, 58, and 59. After entry of the amendments made herein, the pending claims are 13, 14, 18-20^{NE}, 29, 52, 53, and 58-62. A Version with Markings to Show Changes Made is attached hereto. A clean version of all pending/under consideration claims is attached as Appendix A. Please charge the fee for a three month extension of time to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

In the Claims

13. (Amended) The method of claim 62 wherein the mismatch repair gene is *PMS2*.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 62 wherein the mismatch repair gene is human *PMS2*.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein said mismatch repair gene comprises a truncation mutation.